

Graduate Psychology Education Program

The Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program is administered by the Bureau of Health Professions and is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The GPE Program is the only federal program dedicated solely to psychology education and training.

Established in 2002, the GPE Program provides grants to APA-accredited doctoral, internship and postdoctoral programs in support of interdisciplinary training of psychology students for the provision of psychological services to underserved populations (i.e., older adults, children, chronically ill, and victims of abuse and trauma), especially in rural and urban communities. Funds may be used for student stipends, faculty and clinical teaching psychologists, curriculum development, model demonstration programs and technical assistance.

Funding History

In FY 2002, the Bureau of Health Professions received \$2 million in start-up funding to establish the GPE Program, which resulted in 18 grants being awarded in 16 states. For FY 2003, \$4.5 million was appropriated overall, with \$1.5 million allocated for geropsychology. The FY 2003 funds supported 24 general grants and 7 grants for geropsychology training. In addition, the 18 original GPE Program grantees were given a one-year extension on their grants because they were inappropriately denied the opportunity to (re) compete for FY 2003 funds. Despite an incredibly tight budget, and with many programs eliminated or drastically reduced, it is expected that the GPE Program will receive \$4.5 million for FY 2004 (i.e., the same amount of funding as in FY 2003). Unfortunately, the flat funding for FY 2004 will not allow the same number of grants as awarded in FY 2003. *It is, therefore, imperative that we seek (and gain) a substantial increase for FY 2005; the process for which will begin in January.*

Grassroots Support

The GPE Program was launched as a result of advocacy efforts by APA Education Advocacy staff and grassroots support from APA members, especially Herbert Goldstein, Ph.D., of St. Petersburg, Florida, and Robert Devies, Ph.D., of Alliance, Ohio. Dr. Goldstein is responsible for garnering the support of House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young (R-FL), and Dr. Devies gained the help of House Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS)- Education Subcommittee Chairman Ralph Regula (R-OH). Both Mr. Young and Mr. Regula have championed funding for the GPE Program in the House.

On the Senate side, two APA members, Dr. Peter Nathan of the University of Iowa and Dr. Kris Hagglund (former Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow) were instrumental in gaining the support of Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Ranking

Member of the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. In addition, APA members Drs. Tom Power and Paul Robbins of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia gained the support of Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman of the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee.